



Monday, August 22, 2011

Planting seeds of success – biosecurity award finalists named

Producers from across three states have today been named as finalists in the *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award – plant category*.

Bill Casey (of Ulverstone, Tasmania), Sandra and Peter Young (Woombye, Queensland), and Lynn and Ian Rathjen (Colbinabbin, Victoria) have been recognised as outstanding entrants in the national award.

Hosted by Kondinin Group and ABC Rural and sponsored by Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia, the *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award* recognises the efforts of producers dedicated to keeping their operations free of diseases, pests and weeds.

Bill Casey says his company, Biological Resources Australia (BRA), is the major player in contracting pyrethrum growers in Tasmania, providing agronomic and other crop advice to growers as well as harvesting, transport and storage.

The company has recently expanded its operations, including into Victoria, so stringent biosecurity standards must be met to allow plant material and machinery back into Tasmania.

With markets across the US, Middle East, the European Union and Asia, BRA today exports as much as 98 per cent of its annual production and its commitment to biosecurity stretches back more than 30 years.

Sandra and Peter Young own and operate Birdwood Nursery Fruit Trees, Queensland's leading tropical and subtropical fruit production nursery. They not only supply the country's fruit growers but also the shelves of Bunnings and a wide range of other retail outlets.

Birdwood helped pioneer a nursery industry accreditation scheme and in 2006 became one of the first nurseries to achieve EcoHort certification. Producing more than 150,000 trees annually, the Youngs say biosecurity has been at the forefront of all production processes in the business.

<p>Farmer of the Year</p>	<p>Biosecurity Farmer of the Year</p>	<p>Farm Industry Leader of the Year</p>	<p>Livestock Producer of the Year</p>	<p>Sugarcane Grower of the Year</p>
<p>Young Farmer of the Year</p>	<p>Grain Grower of the Year</p>	<p>Diversification Farmer of the Year</p>	<p>Wool Producer of the Year</p>	<p>Thank you to our sponsors</p>



Australian
Farmer of the Year
Awards
September 7, 2011



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Lynn and Ian Rathjen run a diverse farming enterprise producing wine, native trees, cereal crops, and pastures as well as running a Border Leicester sheep stud.

The Rathjens introduced strict biosecurity practices because of the immediate threat to both their income and their way of life. They take these measures not just to protect their business but also to protect agriculture in their region.

Judges were impressed by the standard of all nominations received this year and with the enthusiasm of so many plant producers who champion biosecurity best practice.

The winner of the 2011 *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award* in the plant category will be announced at the *Australian Farmer of the Year Awards* dinner, held in Sydney on 7 September 2011.

In addition to the *Farmer of the Year Award* sponsored by Kondinin and ABC Rural, other categories and their sponsors include:

Young Farmer of the Year – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Farm Industry Leader Farmer of the Year - Rabobank

Grain Grower of the Year – GRDC

Livestock Producer of the Year – Elders

Diversification Farmer of the Year – RIRDC

Sugarcane Grower of the Year – Canegrowers and SRDC

Wool Producer of the Year – AWI

Dinner tickets are available from Kondinin Group by contacting 1800 677 761 or email verity.todd@kondinin.com.au. Join us to celebrate Australia's farmers.

Farmer of the Year



Biosecurity Farmer of the Year



Farm Industry Leader of the Year



Livestock Producer of the Year



Sugarcane Grower of the Year



Young Farmer of the Year



Grain Grower of the Year



Diversification Farmer of the Year



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